

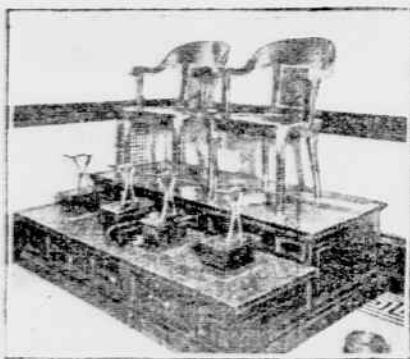
## IMPUDENT GRAFT.

## Harrisburg Capitol Robbers Exceeded All Records.

Harrisburg, Penn., July 6.—The legislative investigating committee which has been busy for some time unearthing the fraudulent methods pursued in building, decorating and furnishing the new \$9,000,000 State Capitol here will be ready to file its report soon, and so flagrant is the graft discovered that the commission is expected to recommend a civil action to recover at least \$5,000,000 from the several contractors and also criminal prosecutions against two contractors and three politicians. The grossness of the overcharges made by contractors has aroused the indignation of many taxpayers who would hardly object at all to being robbed scientifically and skilfully. The clumsiness of the methods employed, which shows in what contempt the public was held by the robbers, hurts as much as the robbery.

For instance, as disclosed, the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, composed of the Governor, the Auditor General and the State Treasurer, authorized the secret interior decoration of the Capitol. In the advertisement for stationery, coal and other supplies for the fiscal year ending June, 1905, was inserted a modest request for proposals for furnishing the new Capitol. Not the least idea was given as to quantities required or the designs. John H. Sanderson, of Philadelphia, was the only bidder, and an award was made to Sanderson for goods amounting to \$2,500,000. This item read: "Designed furniture, fittings, furnishing and decorations of either woodwork, stone, marble, bronze, mosaic, glass and upholstery, per foot, maximum price \$20."

Sanderson bid \$18 40 a foot, and under that one item he supplied oval tables, desks, a boot-black stand, marble mantels, andirons and window curtains. "Per foot" meant lineal, square



A COSTLY OUTFIT.

The stand cost the contractor \$75, and the chairs \$25 each. He charged Pennsylvania \$1,619 20 for the lot.

or cubic; sometimes the measurement was a mere guess. In the case of tables it included the air between the legs at \$18 40 a cubic foot; in the case of clothes trees it included a wrapping of air several inches thick around the wooden upright.

Fifty mahogany desks were bought by Sanderson by the piece, actually costing \$65 each, or \$3,250. Sanderson sold them at \$10 80 "per foot," or "1,225 feet," aggregating \$264 00 a desk and a total of \$13,200. Two hundred and eight mahogany desks for the House of Representatives were made by the same sub-contractor, and cost Sanderson \$78 each, or \$6,224. He sold them as "3,230 feet," or for \$285 73 each, a total of \$59,432.

For 185 mahogany clothes trees, costing \$12 each, the contractor collected \$18 40 "per foot." He measured the trees, which stand six feet high and are four inches in diameter, as "four feet." He sold 109 mahogany umbrella tubs, costing \$14 each, for "two feet," or \$26 80, and 31 tubs made by the same sub-contractor and of the identical pattern, for "four feet," or \$72 60 each.

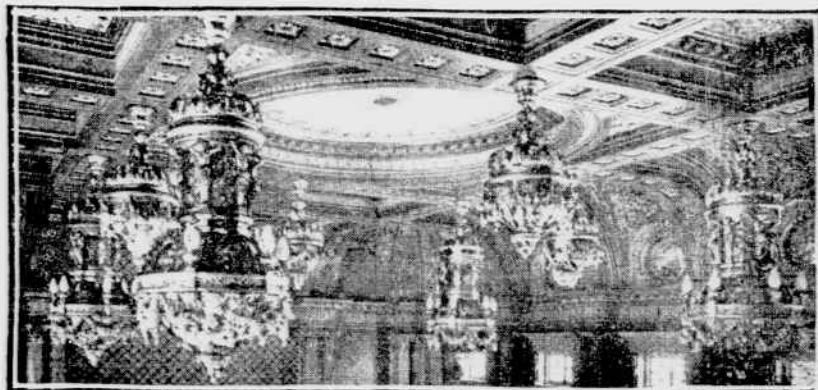
For a common mahogany bootblack stand, 8 by 5 feet, with two \$25 chairs on it and two sets of brass foot rests, Sanderson collected from the state \$1,619 20. He invoiced the bootblack stand at "eighty-eight feet" and charged \$18 40 "per foot" for designed woodwork.

Sanderson supplied seventy-eight desks of one design for various departments. For forty-eight he charged \$220 80 each, at \$18 40 "per foot," and the remaining twenty-nine he measured at "sixty-four feet" and charged \$10 80 "per foot," or \$621 20 each. The desks are worth only \$60.

For Capitol tables Sanderson collected \$81,244 30. Included in the lot were ninety plain mahogany tables, which cost \$40 each. Sanderson sold them at \$18 40 "per foot," varying his measurement so that the prices ranged from \$200 to \$1,472. Those sold for \$1,472 measured 8 feet in length, 4 in width and 2½ feet high, making this "eighty feet" cubic measurement, including air space, as invoiced by Sanderson.

Chairs were sold in the same way, ranging in "feet" from 1½ to 59½. Of 1,198 of one pattern, 701 were sold as "nine feet" at \$12 90, or \$116 10 each, and the other 497 were sold as "two feet" at \$18 40, or only \$36 80. They cost \$12 each.

Sanderson's richest contract was for chandeliers. They were placed throughout the Capitol in abundance. For that work Sanderson bid



SHOWING HOW THE CHANDELIERS WERE CROWDED ON THE CEILINGS. They were charged for at \$4 85 a pound, and many weighed 7,500 pounds each.

"per pound," which was an inducement to make the chandeliers as heavy as possible. In some cases the chandeliers weigh a ton and a half to two tons. Four in the House of Representatives weigh more than three tons each!

Sanderson collected \$4 85 "per pound," his total bill for chandeliers being \$2,287,941 10. In the specifications a bronze metal defined as "government statutory bronze" was designated, and it was provided that the lighting fixtures should have a "mercurial gold finish." Anticipating the contract, Sanderson organized his own company, which cleared \$130,000 profit out of the \$550,000 for which the chandeliers were sold to Sanderson. Instead of a high class bronze, Sanderson substituted a cheaper alloy, and he omitted the "mercurial gold finish" altogether, giving the fixtures a polished, powdered and lacquered finish.

Experts employed by the Capitol investigation commission testified also that 12,000 pounds of "loadings," not worth 25 cents a pound, had been added to the chandeliers and sold at \$4 85 "per pound." Further, it was shown that the fixtures are less in weight than specified in the invoices.

An evidence of the manner in which Sanderson ignored the plans, with the approval of Joseph M. Huston, the architect, was the order for two "bird cage" chandeliers, weighing 1,900 pounds each, and seventeen of the same design, calculated to weigh only 400 pounds. Sanderson made all of them 1,900 pounds, at \$4 85 "per pound." In addition, he collected \$137,600 for working models which he should have supplied, and also \$133,770 for imported "baccarat" glass which, the sub-contractor who made it swore, was manufactured in Beaver County, Penn., and was sold to Sanderson for \$28,217 66.

Sanderson sold thermostats at \$79 each. Experts found only 363 in the Capitol, although the amount of the contractor's bill indicated 673, or \$59,468. Further inquiry revealed an itemized account which read "for installing thermostats, valves and for special work equal to 673 thermostats, at \$79 each, \$59,468."

Although there are five hundred rooms in the Capitol, only the main rooms are painted gorgeously; in them, the brilliant colors and gilt were smeared upon walls and ceilings so that the effect is rather a savage conception of "high art." Sanderson collected \$789,473 16 for the decorating and painting; it cost him \$174,962, so that he had a profit of \$614,511 16.

For designed woodwork in forty-five rooms Sanderson collected \$545,136 80; the sub-contractor who did the work swore that his total bill aggregated only \$86,973, including "a good profit." Sanderson's profit upon those rooms was \$479,063 80. In the Senate and House caucus rooms two rostrums were built of mahogany; the two were constructed for \$2,060 by a reputable woodworker. Sanderson charged the state

\$35,144 for the one and \$55,604 80 for the other, making a total of \$90,748 80.

When the sub-contractor was testifying before the legislative commission he was asked if the rostrums were "solid mahogany," as required. "No," said he, "the balusters are of hard putty." He admitted that he substituted them by direction of Sanderson. In other cases it was shown that putty was substituted for carved mahogany and stained in imitation; especially was that the fact when the carving was virtually out of reach.

Marble mantels, brackets and fountains were sold to the state aggregating \$206,080 worth. Experts examined \$75,910 worth and pronounced the real value not more than \$7,200. Sanderson collected \$3,275 20 for a marble mantel of which the appraised value was only \$32—this was the contractor's prize profit, being in excess of 10,000 per cent!

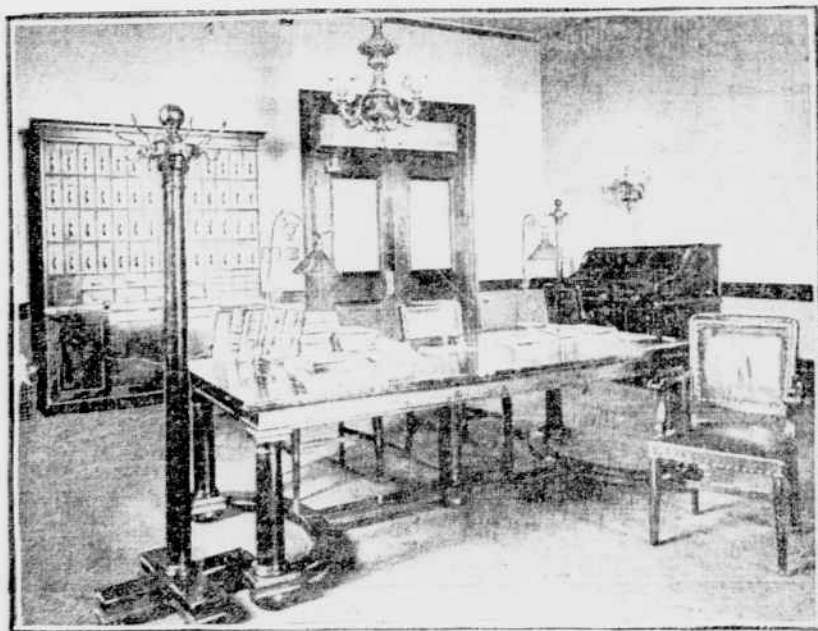
Not only were the fireplaces and fountains unauthorized, but the fact is that the chimneys are without flues and the water fountains without connections, hence both worthless ornaments. For marble for the fireplaces Sanderson collected \$21,237 50, charging \$4 51 "per foot." It was found, however, that there was no "per foot" bid amounting to \$4 51, so the \$21,237 50 was divided by \$18 40—the "per foot" rate for designed marble—and the quotient was inserted into the bill in red ink as the number of feet at the corrected price. The bill was approved and paid without question by the state officers.

A final example of Sanderson methods was his sale of 697½ yards of curtain trimming, purchased at \$1 a yard. He sold it to the state "per foot," collecting fifty-five times what it cost.

Congressman H. Burd Cassel's concern supplied metallic furniture, including 710 document filing cases and wardrobes. There were so many of these things that there was not sufficient place for them in the new Capitol and some of them had to be stored. Experts estimate that the \$2,672,450 55 contract could be duplicated for less than \$500,000. Cassel did not even allow the trade discount.

Among the things furnished by him was a "burglar proof" safe, costing \$25,000. One of the experts bored through it without hearing an ordinary drill. Cassel also supplied two telephone booths, consisting of bronze ornamental fronts and heavy steel sides, half glass, measuring 5 by 5 feet. They cost the state \$3,880.

In every case where bills were inflated, Huston, the architect, collected increased commissions. As the prices for furniture, metallic cases, carpets and chandeliers were swollen Huston's fortune grew. In addition to his \$184,736 91 upon the building, he collected \$285,000 on account for the decorating and claims \$45,618 32 more, which State Treasurer Berry refused to pay.



THE "PER FOOT" PLAN.

Filing cases in the rear cost the state \$12 a cubic foot; closettree, \$18 40 a foot; the table cost \$18 40 a foot for eighty feet; the chair cost \$116 at that rate.

## LOOK TO YOUR EARS.

Continued from second page.

harm to the tiny chain of bones, but the drum-head mends quickly, and in many cases where it has been punctured or broken by a fall hearing has been restored immediately by putting a piece of wet sized paper over the membrane, and the drum has healed in from four to six weeks.

When one finds one's self becoming deaf he should find out whether the trouble is with the inner ear or the outer. A good test is to hold a tuning fork to the forehead of a person deaf in one ear. He will invariably tell you that he hears better with the good ear, but in a few minutes he is apt to say that the deaf ear catches the sound. If he can't hear the tick of a watch held to the forehead and can hear the tuning fork it isn't the auditory nerve that is affected but the apparatus for transmitting the vibrations. If it is the other way his case is hopeless, many experts declare.

The causes of deafness are many, but the commonest are these: Scarlet fever, diphtheria, running ear, sore throat and chronic catarrh, certain operations on the nose or throat, a severe cold in the head, a fall or a blow on the ear. The thing most to be avoided is blowing the nose too hard. This often ruptures the Eustachian tubes and causes serious complications. A spray for the nose and throat is excellent to use during or after a cold, but care should be taken that the solution isn't forced into the tubes that supply the air to the ear. In other



ONE OF THE NUMEROUS CHANDELIERS. This one is 17 feet 10 inches high and 7 feet 8 inches in diameter; supposed to be of gilt bronze.

words, don't spray too hard. For an ache or an inflammation of the ear the best home remedy is an irrigation with a hot solution of common table salt or bicarbonate of soda, one teaspoonful to the pint.

For a chronic catarrhal condition of the inner ear that causes a continual buzzing and ringing and oftentimes a pounding that drives people insane there is nothing for the patient to do but seek at once the best possible medical treatment.

The running ear, most common with children, is the most serious of all conditions of the ear, and should always be attended to when the trouble starts. When it doesn't cause deafness it produces an inflammation that may result in meningitis or brain abscess, either of which is fatal unless taken in hand early. The symptoms are acute pains in the head and ear, and chills. Whenever a child or adult who has a running ear has a chill he should be sent in a hurry to the nearest artist. It may prove to be malaria, but is more likely to be more serious. Many hundreds of people die every year from mastoid complications caused by a running ear.

Swollen tonsils are often the cause of a loss of hearing. If they are troublesome at all have them removed, says the expert, it will spare you a great deal of pain and save your hearing. The best time to have an examination is after a severe cold. If you have a pain in the ear, don't resort to morphine or the hot water bag, but get up in the middle of the night, if necessary, and see a doctor. If the same cure were given the ears that the teeth get much more than half of the deafness in this country would be avoided. This is the verdict of those who make a study of the subject.

## ALL HAIR ON FACE AND ARMS

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